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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. Patent Application
Bernard Paul Joseph THIERS

Examiner: Kevin McDermott

Group Art Unit: 3635

Serial Number: 09/805,234

Attorney Docket: THIE3001/JEK

Filed: March 14, 2001

For: FLOOR COVERING

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to Rule 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.51(b), 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in the above-identified patent application. A listing of documents to be published on the face of any patent granted from this application is submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449. Any other documents or information submitted for consideration by the Examiner are listed in this paper. A copy of each U.S. and foreign patent, or each publication or portion thereof listed or herein identified is submitted herewith.

08/15/2002 SMINASS1 00000063 09805234

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180.00 OP CONCISE STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY
(NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS ONLY)

British 2 256 023 discloses tongue and groove joints on adjoining side edges of wooden panels used to form flooring and the like wherein the tongue and groove locks the panels together both horizontally and vertically. Beveled corner edges are illustrated on the top sides of the panels adjacent the joint plane. The joints are designed to enable movement of the panels within the plane of the panels. No top decorative layer and no MDF/HDF core material is disclosed.

Japanese Published Patent Application No. 06320510 in Figures 7 and 8 illustrates a bevel at the top joint between adjacent panels connected together by tongue and groove connectors adjacent the joint plane. The top layer 1a shown in

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Figures 7 and 8 is made of a wood material such as "MDF, etc." but no top decorative layer above the wood layer is disclosed. The lower layer 1c and 1d are made of a soft or a half-hard synthetic resin and serve as an underlay for the panels. In accordance with the embodiments of Figures 10 and 11, the top layers 1a are constituted of a wood-like material and the main core layers 1d are formed of synthetic resin. No decorative layer is illustrated above the wood layer 1a.

Japanese Publication No. 07076923 discloses tongue and groove connected floor panels in which a bevel is provided (see figures 6 and 7) adjacent the joint plane. The document does not disclose a decorative top layer above an MDF/HDF core material.

STATEMENT REGARDING TRANSLATIONS

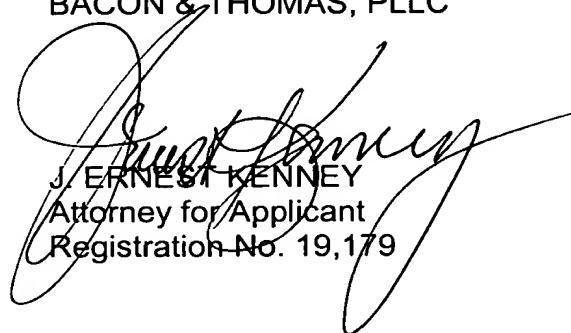
A full translation of the Japanese patent documents is provided.

The fee required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c) and 1.17(p) is submitted herewith.

The Examiner is requested to acknowledge consideration of the information provided in this paper in accordance with prescribed procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

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